

The leadership and hard work demonstrated by coach Howie Dickenman and the Blue Devils is an example to us all. While finishing with a record of 4-22, only two seasons ago, they have proven this year, that through persistence and strength of character, any sought after goal is possible.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating this extraordinary group of young men and their coaches, parents, classmates and others who supported and cheered them on through this long journey.

Their determination throughout the entire season has been an inspiration to all of us. Congratulations to the Blue Devils and best of luck in the NCAA tournament!

IN RECOGNITION OF KATIE
MCGWIN

HON. ROBERT A WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Katie McGwin, a resident of North Kingstown, Rhode Island and a fifth-grader at Quidnesset Elementary School. Katie was among the winners of this year's National Sportsmanship Day essay contest for her positive essay on responsibility and encouragement.

March 7th was the Tenth Annual National Sportsmanship Day and I am pleased to say that in all of the fifty states, and in one hundred and one other countries students, athletes, coaches, and educators spent the day focusing on the merits of good sportsmanship. In more than 12,000 institutions worldwide, students participated in programs such as "The No Swear Zone", essay and poster contests, student roundtables, and coaches forums in an effort to promote good sportsmanship among our youth.

Just ten years ago this program existed only in Rhode Island elementary schools, founded by my good friend Mr. Daniel E. Doyle, Jr., Executive Director of the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, and now it is an international event. This is a wonderful program whose value is evident by the speed of its growth and broad reach of its appeal.

Katie's essay espoused the virtues of true sportsmanship and brought to light the benefits that sportsmanship can offer to our families, our communities, and our nation. Sportsmanship, as Katie notes, is about many things, both on and off the field of play; it is about hard work and effort, responsibility, kindness to others, honesty, fair play, ethical behavior and it is about encouragement. These values are beneficial for our homes, for our workplaces and for our schools. In an age when violence too often penetrates our educational institutions and our communities, these are the ethics and values—which Katie so eloquently discussed—that must be promoted and encouraged by parents, educators and coaches.

I would like to commend Katie for her wisdom and her character and want to encourage her to maintain them throughout her life as

they will bring her success in her professional and personal life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 8, 2000 votes were held while I was in route to the Capitol, as were other members, therefore, I missed roll call votes 29, 30, and 31.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the passage of H.R. 1827, the "Government Waste Corrections Act."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" to suspend the rules and pass the H.R. 2952 redesignate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Greenville, South Carolina as the Keith D. Oglesby Station.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 3018 to designate the U.S. Postal Office in Charleston, South Carolina as the Marybelle H. Howe Post Office.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF CONNIE
M. DEFORD

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful lady, Ms. Connie Deford, of Bay City, Michigan, on the occasion of her retirement from her post as City Clerk of Bay City. Connie has been our trusted clerk since 1986, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that both in character and spirit, Connie is an inspiration to those around her and will be sorely missed by her co-workers.

Connie was born in my home town of Bay City and has a long history of contributing to our community, both as an elected official and as a civic leader. In fact, Connie's service to Bay City is touted as a model for all aspiring elected officials. Everyone who has worked with Connie knows that her retirement will leave very big shoes to fill. However, her accomplishments as City Clerk will endure as a blueprint for all to follow.

Connie is very active in our city's civic affairs and has been awarded numerous awards for her extraordinary service. Mr. Speaker, time restraints dictate that I mention just a few of the many honors she has received. Perhaps one of her most prestigious awards is the Quill Award, given by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the largest international clerk organization, to recognize the most qualified and dedicated clerk in the world. Other awards she has received include being elected Michigan Municipal Clerk of the Year, nominated for the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Athena Award for Professional Women, awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Rotarian of the Year, and awarded the Great Lakes College Honorary Doctor of Letters, as

well as the Municipal League Special Award of merit.

Her contributions to our community are equally impressive. Connie has been an active member of her church, Holy Trinity, where she is on the Administration Commission and serves as a member of the Adult Choir. She is involved with such admirable institutions as the March of Dimes, the Salvation Army, the Great Lakes College Foundation, and the Michigan Municipal League Foundation.

With Connie's unflagging energy and civic-minded commitment, I am sure that retirement will not mean slowing down. Rather, it will mean a new direction and a new focus that will produce results which impact positively on many, many people in our community. I am also sure that Connie will enjoy the company of her daughter Brigette and son Keane, as well as her two grandchildren Austin and Angela.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bay City City Clerk Connie Deford on the occasion of her retirement, and thanking her for her selfless service to our community. We in Bay City, Michigan, have been truly fortunate to be the recipient of her commitment and vision. Connie has not only been a motivator and creator of civic pride, she precisely embodies our civic pride. I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

DRUG COMPANY PROFITEERING:
HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH FOR
AMGEN?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, submitted are portions of a letter which I have sent to the Federal Trade Commission and others.

When one looks at Amgen's SEC filings, it is clear that this price increase was not necessary. It is pure profiteering, largely at taxpayer expense. It is another example of how Flo and her allies cannot be believed in the debate of a Medicare pharmaceutical benefit.

The ancient Greeks knew the wisdom of moderation, and called it the Golden Mean. All these guys know is Golden Greed.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2000.

Hon. ROBERT PITOFKY,
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I urge the Commission to conduct an immediate investigation of the recent price increase in recombinant human erythropoietin (rHuEPO) announced by the Amgen Corporation. Such an investigation would be very important in the developing debate on the rapid rise in pharmaceutical expenses (15.4% last year) and Medicare payment policy.

Briefly put, Amgen makes about \$1 billion dollars a year in profit on the sale of its sole source, monopoly product EPOGEN to Medicare providers. Medicare pays \$10 for a unit that, the last we know, cost about 50 cents to make. The company recovered its entire R&D costs for this product—about \$170 million—in roughly the first year of its sales to Medicare (1990).